



Portable operations with the FT-857

by Fred Lesnick VE3FAL

Just before the weather got cooler and the snow fell I was able to take my manpack setup outside in the backyard and do some pedestrian mobile communications, this was the week of Nov 11-16 2013. 10 and 12 meters were in great shape and 10 meter FM simplex was even better.

My manpack consists of a frame I bought on eBay from China, it is attached to my Alice Pack. In the frame I have a FT-857, LDG AT-100 PROII tuner, PBox LiPO batteries(x2) ran in parallel. My antenna for HF is a Chameleon Hy-Brid Mini with a V1L whip or a PRC-271 10' whip. Power out was typically 10 watts for all contacts. I worked into TX and CA on 29.600 FM Simplex with a 60 over report. I worked Northern Ireland and South Africa as well.

This is a picture of my setup:



It works quite well and I use a comet antenna for 2/440 on it as well. It has a jack on the front for a morse code key and I have connections on the back for the computer for sound-card digital modes.

A video of the setup in operation can

be seen here on YouTube: <http://youtu.be/p1x9f6G2yt0>

I am waiting for a CHA CAP Hat so I can tune on 80 and 160. I use a counterpoise as well of 25' with a quick connect/disconnect in case someone trips on it or when I am walking I get it snagged. The pack is continually taking on new changes. I have a strip of LED lights I want to use for night operations to lessen current draw and want to put a fold down tray on the pack for my logbook as well.

Hope to work you this winter from the cross country ski trails pedestrian mobile.

Fred Lesnick, VE3FAL, is a special contributor to AmateurRadio.com and writes from Ontario, Canada. Reprinted from AmateurRadio.com with permission of the author.

Amethyst VHF Net

The Amethyst VHF net occurs weekly on Sundays at 7:45 PM ET, 6:45 PM CT on IRLP reflector 9031. VE3RRP is usually the net control station, via the VE3TBR repeater. Reflector 9031 connects repeaters in Ignace, Atikokan, Dryden, Kenora, Sioux Narrows, as well as Pinawa and St. Andrews in Eastern Manitoba. The main purpose of the net is regularly test the system's IRLP connection, and encourage use of VE3TBR, to give stations across the northwest a dedicated time to access Thunder Bay via VHF. Occasionally we get 8 check-ins from the repeaters that are connected to the reflector. VE3TBR is not kept on the reflector after the net, but is open for any IRLP connection.

73,

Karl Hamilton VE3RRP

LARC SENATE**Keith Fiske VE3JQ SK****Dave Kimpton VE3AVS****Laurie Bridgett VE3BCD****Terry Stewardson VA3LU****Ed Baumann VE3SNW****LARC EXECUTIVE****President - Jeff Cederwall
VE3JTD****Vice President - Bob Hanson
VE3RVA****Secretary - Karl Hamilton
VE3RRP****Treasurer -Bill Unger VE3XT****Directors****Brad Harris VE3MXJ****Andy Malcolm VE3INI****Lori Bedford VE3VAI****Terry Stewardson VA3LU****LARC Emergency Coordinator****Brad Harris VE3MXJ 767-0628****ARES District Emergency
Coordinator****VE3FAL Fred Lesnick 577-0789****CANWARN****VA3JMS John 767-3631****VE3MXJ Brad 767-0628****Public Service Events****VA3JMS John 767-3631****Accredited Examiners****VE3FAL Fred Lesnick 577-0789****flesnick@tbaytel.net****VE3VAI Lori Bedford 622 – 6386****ve3vai@tbaytel.net****ABOUT US**

The Lakehead Amateur Radio Club (LARC) is an incorporated not for profit group of amateur radio operators in the Thunder Bay area that meet for self education, community service and fellowship. Our meetings are the second Thursday of the month at room 191 McIntyre Building, Confederation College, 7:30 PM. Our postal address is 1100C Memorial Ave. Suite 184, Thunder Bay, Ontario P7B 4A3. This newsletter is published monthly except for July and August by Ed Baumann VE3SNW and questions and submissions may be emailed to ve3snw@shaw.ca

Nets in the Thunder Bay Area

Sunday AMETHYST ARES VHF NET, on VE3TBR 146.820- pl 107.2 IRLP Ref. # 9031 @ 0045Z (7:45 pm), also Cook County ARES Response Team (CARRT) net at 0100Z (8 pm) on the BWARC repeater, Grand Portage repeater - 146.655 with CTCSS 151.4

Monday SATERN NET on VE3TBR 146.820- pl 107.2 IRLP Ref. # 9032

SATERN DIGITAL NETS on **Monday & Wednesday** nights

8 pm- 14.065

9 pm- 7.065

10 pm- 3.5835

Mode :Olivia 8/500 1000Hz waterfall centre

Tuesday 2M/ LARC ARES NET on VE3YQT 147.060- @ 7:00PM ET, and after this net is the new THUNDER BAY ARES DIGITAL NET on PSK31 between 1000 & 2000 WATERFALL 145.050 FM mode @ 7:30PM (usually starts after the 2m/ ares net)

Every Day The NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO ARES NET , every evening at 8:15PM (local) on 80m 3.750Mhz (note the time does not change with daylight savings time.)

Any questions on these or other nets please feel free to contact me at my e-mail: ve3mxj@rac.ca

LARC OPEN ACCESS REPEATERS**VE3YQT(Mount Baldy)147.060 (-600) Phone Patch****VE3TBR (St. Joseph's) 146.820 pl 107.2****442.075 (+5 MHz)pl 100****144.390 APRS****VE3UPP Upsala 145.470 (-600)**

Santa Parade 2013



Thanks to Pat Pugh VA3PP, Bob Hanson VE3RVA, Mark Vaillant VA3MVR, Marion Nawrocki VE3MJN, Bill Unger VE3XT for their work during the Santa Parade 2013.



And here is Bill...checking it twice!



Minutes of the Lakehead Amateur Radio Club

Date: November 14, 2013

President, Jeff Cedarwall VE3JTD Presiding.

Guest Speaker:

Bill Unger VE3XT spoke about Software Defined Radio.

Treasurer's Report: Bill Unger VE3XT

Bill Unger VE3XT moved to accept the report as printed in the November HI-Q. Seconded by Paul Curtin VA3PDC. Passed Unanimously.

Minutes of Previous Meeting: Karl Hamilton VE3RRP

Karl Hamilton VE3RRP moved to accept the October's meeting's minutes as printed in the November HI-Q. Seconded by Harvey Larabee VA3LHA. Passed Unanimously.

Old Business:

Public Service (John Sacek VA3JMS public events coordinator)

Santa Claus Parade (Norm VE3XRC, Bob Hanson VE3RVA coordinators)

Volunteers were firmed up for the November 16th parade.

Santa Shuffle (Bob Hanson VE3RVA coordinator)

The Salvation Army Santa Shuffle will start at 10 am December 7 and finish at about 11.

CANWARN John Sacek VA3JMS

No activity

ARES Brad Harris VE3MXJ Thunder Bay EC

Brad Harris VE3MXJ gave a summary of the October SET.

Nets:

Tuesday night VHF Net on VE3YQT at 7pm. Everyone invited to check-in. A digital VHF net using PSK 32 sometimes follows.

Sunday night NW ON Amethyst VHF net on VE3TBR, IRLP Reflector 9031, 7:45 ET

Daily NW ON HF 3750 Khz, 8:15 ET if an operator is available

October SET

Brad Harris VE3MXJ gave a summary of the October SET.

RAC Report Bill Unger VE3XT

RAC is on track and working for amateurs....

Repeater News

Randy Gottfred VA3OJ,

Terry Stewardson VA3LU

Randy Gottfred VA3OJ reported going to the YQT site and installed 2 large back-up batteries. The repeater should be available if on emergency power for several days now.

Randy plans to stop in at Uppsala in the near future.

Club Trailer:

Bob Hansen VE3RVA

Bob Hansen VE3RVA reported purchasing a new tarp to cover the trailer for the winter when it is stored after the Santa Claus Parade. All equipment and supplies are ready for the parade.

New Business

Karl Hamilton VE3RRP read a letter of thanks the club received from the local organizers of the CIBC Run for the Cure.

50/50 Draw: Harvey Larabee VA3LHA

Adjournment moved by: Terry Stewardson VA3LU

**Next Executive Meeting: December 5,
2013**

Lakehead Amateur Radio Club

November 2013 Treasurers Report

Balance November 01 2013 **\$1,822.73**

Income

Memberships \$105.00
50/50 \$11.00

Total Income **\$116.00**

Expenses

TB Tel Cell \$2.83

Total Expenses **\$2.83**

Balance November 30, 2013 **\$1,935.90**

| <u>Trailer Account</u> | | |
|------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------|
| | Previous Balance | \$954.06 |
| <u>Income</u> | | |
| November 31 Interest | | \$0.08 |
| Total | | \$954.14 |
| <u>Expenses</u> | | |
| | | \$0.00 |
| Total Expenses: | | \$0.00 |
| | Balance in Trailer Account | \$954.14 |

Term Account

Balance November 01 2013 \$2,030.45
Interest November 06 2013 \$0.67
Balance November 30 2013 \$2,031.12

Bill Unger VE3XT
Treasurer

Meshing with the LARC

In late November, Andy, VE3INI, Robert, VA3ROM, Lori, VE3VAI, Don, VE3DEF and myself met at VE3SAO in a meeting room to set up a BBHN-MESH network. Leo, VE3ATC also has the capability to do this.

In order to set up a MESH network a conventional router must be reflashed and it is then capable of operating as part of a MESH network. How it's done is beyond the scope of this article but I will provide links later. Remember once it is reflashed it cannot be used as a regular router.

The basic difference between a router and a MESH network is that in a router it operates like a spoke system in a wheel. For two devices to talk to each other the signal must go through the central router, called a hub and then onto another device. In a MESH network each Node (computer, camera, etc.) can talk directly to each other. The advantage to this is that if one node crashes the signal will automatically reroute and continue on. If a new Node is detected it automatically joins the MESH network. With the typical router if the central hub crashes the entire system fails.

This system was originally called MMHS-MESH. The first acronym meant Multi Media High Speed. It signifies that any type of data could be transmitted from audio to high quality video. This system is line of sight as it operates at 2.4 GHz but with high gain antennas and a good path signals have been transmitted nearly 16 km. It is now called BBHN-MESH, Broadband Hamnet. For Google purposes try both MMHS-MESH and BBHN-MESH.

Here is a good link on how it all works supplied by Harvard:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tYLU755T6_I

Here is the link to the home page of BBHN-MESH for specifics:

<http://www.broadband-hamnet.org/>

At the moment we are still in a bit of a learning curve but hopefully will have more details once we gain more experience.

Merry Christmas from HI-Q & LARC



North East Ontario Regional Directors Report for December, 2013



Well the main event this month is the RAC Winter Contest on December 28. For complete details follow the link:

<https://www.rac.ca/en/rac/programmes/contests/files/2013%20Winter%20Contest%20Rules%20and%20Entry%20Form%20-%20English-French.pdf>

This year we will be in VE6 land over the Christmas holidays “terrorising / traumatising” our children and grandchildren but I hope to spend some time in the RAC Winter Contest. So if you hear a very weak VE3XT/6 please give me a call. Apparently a certain fellow who wears Red thinks I have been somewhat good and showed up early at my QTH with a new KX3. So this will be a good break in test.

Last month I mentioned several things RAC does on behalf of all Canadian Amateurs not only members. I would like to give a concrete example of that. In RSS 244 Industry Canada is proposing the use of 413 to 457 MHz for very low power wireless communications between implanted human monitors and external data collectors. Here is a link to RAC’s reply. Also notice we were the only one to respond on behalf of all Canadian Amateurs: <http://www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/smt-gst.nsf/eng/sf10715.html>

I would also like to welcome several new members to the Executive of RAC. Dorothy Brown, VA7DBR has agreed to be our Treasurer and Glenn MacDonell, VE3XRA is our new First Vice President. Thanks. We are looking for a new chairman of the HF Band Planning Committee and if you’re interested please contact George Gorsline, VE3YV at ve3yv@rac.ca

As promised last one month, one major benefit of being a RAC member is the outgoing QSL service. I realise many of you use LoTW or eQSL but nothing beats the feeling of sending out a bunch of QSL’s. A QSL to the USA is \$1.10 and International is \$1.85 per QSL. At these prices it does not take long to realise a RAC membership suddenly looks really appealing.

On behalf of myself and my XYL Rita I want to wish you all the best of the Holiday Season. I hope it’s safe, joyful and brings you all lots of great memories and some good DX for years to come. We wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

I am still hoping to receive any questions you have about how RAC is run or why we do what we do. Please email me at ve3xt@rac.ca

Bill VE3XT
North East Ontario Regional Director

Bill Shirt

Recently I needed to replace my LARC shirt as the original developed legs and ran away. I went to Mallons and they embroidered up a new one for me. I brought in my own shirt and the total cost of embroidery was \$10 including taxes. If you need a new one its easy. And (unfortunately) I get no part of the action on this.

Bill XT

Tom sent this You Tube video to me. 99.9% of these emails go directly to the junk folder which is where most belong in my humble opinion. I would recommend taking a few minutes to watch this one. It would be a great activity to show kids (of all ages) about Amateur Radio.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zaxub6eppty>

C’mon Bill..I know you love those cat videos - ed

December 2013

| Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu Coffee at Bos- ton on Arthur every Thursday at 2100 | Fri | Sat | Sun |
|-----|--|--|---|---|-----|-----|
| | | | | | | 1 |
| 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 LARC Meeting @ Con College | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 23 | 24 | 25 Christmas Day  | 26 Boxing Day | 27 RAC Winter Contest 0000 UTC to 2359 UTC Decem- ber 28, 2013 | 28 | 29 |
| 30 | 31 New Years Eve  | | Best Wishes to all of you! | | | |
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